(a) whether hospitals in private sector are not using incinerators for disposal of hospital waste due to which infectious diseases such as Hepatitis-B, AIDS, etc. have been spreading;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government would order mandatory use of incinerators for hospitals to check spread of diseases; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T SHANMUGAM): (a) In accordacne with the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, every occupier wherever required, has to set up requisite bio-medical waste treatment facilities like incinerator, autoclave, microwave system for the treatment of waste, or ensure requisite treatment of waste at a common waste treatment facility or any other waste treatment facility in accordance with the time schedule given in Schedule VI of the Rules. The date prescribed for setting up waste treatment facilities is 30th June, 2000 or earlier for hospitals and nursing homes in towns with population of 30 lakhs and above and for hospitals and nursing homes with 500 beds and above in towns with population of below 30 lakhs. Some of the hospitals in private sector have taken initiative for setting up of common Bio-Medical waste treatment facilities.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to make the use of incineration mandatory for hospitals. The Bio-Medical waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998, give various options for management and disposal of hospital wastes. The hospitals are free to choose the disposal methods including use of incinerators.

Homoeopathic Pharmacy Act

5101. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for introduction of Homoeopathic Pharmacy Act for Homoeopathic Pharmacists in India is under active consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the future short title, extent and commencement/Interpretation and the future Act to regulate the profession of Homoeopathic Pharmacy; and

(c) by when the Homoeopathic Pharmacy Act would be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) After inter-Ministerial consultation and competent approval, a legislation in this regard would be enacted.

Use of reusable gloves in Safdarjung and RML Hospitals

5102. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reusable gloves are being used in the Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital, New Delhi, which are generally a health hazard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Reusable gloves are used in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. R.M.L. Hospital after being waped, screened, autoclaved and sterilized before use and re-use. Thus, there is no question of health hazard.

PG courses at NIMHANS

5103. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) which post-graduate courses are being conducted by NIMHANS, Bangalore;

(b) the details of the present intake of each course;

(c) how selections to these courses are made;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the intake of some of these courses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed *{See* below).

(c) Selections are made by conducting a common All India Entrance examination test every year